

CITIZENS INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)

External Affairs Committee Meeting

Monday, November 10, 2003

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 NW 1st Street

10th Floor Conference Room.

3:00 p.m.

Summary of Minutes

CITT MEMBERS

Luis Morse, Chairperson

Marc Buoniconti

James Reeder

Miles Moss

John Cosgrove

Lt. Col. Colmenares

OTHERS PRESENT

Joanna Santiago

Dan Ricker

Mark Alvarez

Barbara Bravo

Peter Evans

Regina Sandilands

Bob Cuevas

Russ Marchner

Seraphin Bernard

David Tinder

Aurelia Vasquez

Patrice Rosemond

ROLL CALL

With a quorum being present, Luis Morse, Chairman, called the meeting of the External Affairs Committee to order at 3:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 9, 2003

Mr. Moss moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2003. The motion was seconded by Marc Buoniconti and carried without dissent.

Virginia Diaz requested to add Mark Alvarez of the Center for Urban Transportation Research to provide a summary on the Public Involvement Plan to the agenda.

Miles Moss moved the approval of the agenda as amended, seconded by Marc Buoniconti. The agenda was unanimously approved.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None

LEGISLATIVE/INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Municipal Status Report

Virginia Diaz, External Affairs Staff stated that staff was directed to draft a resolution implementing a December 31, 2003 deadline for the submission of the required transportation plans. In addition, a boilerplate for the municipalities outlining the expectations for their transportation plans and a letter showing the intent of the Trust was developed. A copy of the letter was distributed. As part of the original interlocal agreement, the municipalities were to provide the necessary documents this summer. That has not occurred. To date, the numbers have not changed. We have received transportation plans from seven municipalities out of the 31 (a copy of the "Submittal Report of Required Documentation By Municipalities" was distributed). Ms. Diaz stated it was suggested that we host a municipal workshop. The workshop has been planned for this Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at 2:00 at the MDX Facility to provide instruction, guidance, and assistance to each of the municipalities in developing their plans to meet the December 31st deadline. The Trust recommended to the BCC to withhold distribution of funds to those municipalities that would not comply with the December 31 deadline.

Miles Moss asked why some municipalities have not submitted their Interlocal agreements.

Ms. Diaz responded that only two municipalities have not submitted their Interlocal agreements, Indian Creek and the Town of Medley. The town of Medley has contacted us and will be submitting their agreement soon. However, the Interlocal Agreement did provide language stating they needed to provide certain documents. One of those documents was the transportation plan. Seven municipalities that have submitted their plans are 1) Coral Gables, 2) Homestead, 3) Miami Beach, 4) South Miami, 5) West Miami, 6) Palmetto Bay and 7) Virginia Gardens. These municipalities have submitted all 3 requested items. They submitted their transportation plans, a copy of their approved budget and their interlocal agreement. There are others that have met us halfway. For example the town of Miami Lakes has submitted their transportation plan and executed agreement. However, we are still missing their approved budget. The town of Bay Harbor submitted a copy of their approved budget and executed agreement but is missing their plan. Opa-locka submitted a one-year transportation plan. It must be a 5-year plan. There are 21 municipalities that are missing transportation plans and their budget.

Mr. Buoniconti expressed that it should be in the interest of the municipalities to be seeking this information not the county. He expressed that is a very good idea to implement a deadline.

Mr. James Reeder stated the workshop is to bring the people together to explain the requirements and concepts. Some municipalities do not have the staff to prepare their plans. The workshop will have consultants available to assist those municipalities in need.

Mr. Morse expressed concern and stated I can understand Virginia Gardens may not have the ability to produce the necessary document due to staffing, but I cannot understand the City of Miami or Hialeah.

Mr. Reeder stated that he and Russ Marchner of the Dade League of Cities would contact the cities based on the information that has been provided in today's meeting.

Ms. Diaz added that Indian Creek will receive \$900 and they will be reimbursed on an annual basis.

Mr. Reeder responded the Indian Creek reimbursement is a form of that type of flexibility we are discussing.

Mr. Morse said he would support flexibility to the smaller municipalities but I will not support that method with the major municipalities that are going to be receiving 1 million or more.

Mr. Moss informed the members that the City of Miami will be submitting its transportation plan after it has been approved by the City Commission.

Ms. Diaz informed the members that the invitations have been sent out via email. Staff has been working with the Dade League of Cities to get the word out. In addition, to following up with phone calls, staff will be ready to respond to any questions and provide necessary guidance. The Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) will be available to guide them with the development of their transportation plan. This workshop is free of charge and we make mention of that in our letter.

NEW BUSINESS – HIGH SPEED RAIL

Ms. Diaz distributed and discussed the “Amendment to the Florida Constitution Article X, Section 19 High Speed Ground Transportation System”. This is what was passed. The language does not state what points will be connected. However, it does provide a November 1, 2003 start date for construction. It does not provide a conclusion as to when all these connections will take place. The second page on the hand out shows the Orlando –Tampa connection. The high-speed rail authority decided to make that line the two first connection points from Orlando to Tampa. The handout provides some language explaining that connection. The 3^d page briefly describes what the High-speed rail authority foresees for future connections. An expensive high-speed rail line throughout the state. No time lines have been provided as to when these others lines will occur except for Tampa-Orlando. The Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), an umbrella organization representing the State’s transit properties has taken the position that the High Speed Rail can coexist with the transit projects if they identify a new source of revenue to fund it.

Mr. Buoniconti asked if is this a county issue or a state issue and would the High Speed Rail connect to the MIC.

Ms. Diaz indicated this is a state issue and that the only connection being developed at this moment is the Tampa-Orlando connection.

Mr. Morse emphasized that FDOT is only looking at the Orlando –Tampa connection. If it is funded out of existing funds not only will it dry up state funds for Dade County but they it will also dry up federal dollars. High Speed Rail may appear more attractive to the Feds, reducing the interest in local projects like Metrorail.

Mr. Buoniconti stated if the project is proceeding forward then we should be lobbying for the south route at least as is would benefit the County.

Mr. Morse said his main concern is if the High Speed Rail proceeds with available funds that means the Peoples’ Transportation Plan will not be implemented. The County will not be able to get any State funding to continue with the PTP, as the High Speed Rail will use up those state funds.

Mr. Buoniconti asked how monies are disbursed in the Federal level. Does a certain amount of money come to the State.

Ms. Diaz explained that on the Federal side they pick which project they want to fund. They can have multiple projects, but this is unlikely

Mr. Moss suggested that the appropriate approach would be to make a resolution to request the MPO and the County Commission to request a consideration for repeal. But I presume before doing that we should have some facts provided to us on that issue.

Ms. Diaz explained that the Mayor's office is the lead office in coordinating the county's federal and state legislative package. The package is comprised of recommendations provided by County Department staff. Once the package is pulled together, it goes to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval.

SMART COMMUTE PROGRAM

Ms. Diaz provided a brief overview of the Smart Commute Program and stated we have moved that event to December 1, 2003 at 11:00 am tentatively at the Douglas Road Station. Smart commute is a national federally funded program that provides affordable mortgages to homeowners within a transit zone. Including areas where bus service goes through the community with frequency at a certain level. There is a quarter of a mile to half a mile parameter within that transit zone. This program will benefit the community providing residents with affordable mortgages. Fannie Mae will be providing training for the lenders that will be participating in the program.

TRANSIT WATCH

Transit Watch campaign kick off day is tentatively scheduled for November 17, 2003. However the date may change due to the FTAA. Transit Watch is a national program that can be compared to crime watch on wheels. Basically this is an educational program for our transit users to keep their eyes open on our system and to report anything of suspicion. Mr. Buoniconti asked does the CITT have any specific rolls in the program. Ms. Diaz would like to have some members there and play a role in the speaking. With Transit watch I must speak with MDT to find out. I believe we should have representation from both the Trust and MDT.

Mr. Moss made a motion to approve the resolution "to protect the Peoples Transportation Plan and the ability to fund future PTP project with matching federally funded and to provide transportation improvement projects to Dade County that will provide the optimal benefits to the Citizens and the County CITT

recommends that the MPO and the BCC support the repeal of High speed ground transportation system under section 19 of the Florida Constitution.”

Mr. Morse suggested approving the resolution as stated by Mr. Moss. Mr. Moss moved and was seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent. To be forwarded to the full CITT.

Ms. Diaz stated that she will provide the members with a copy of the legislation that is being pursued by the state. In addition, she will have an FDOT representative at the full Trust.

Peter Evans Vice President of Metro Aqua Cats distributed a copy “World Research Digest” for informational purposes.

Mark Alvarez, Center for Urban Transportation Research distributed and presented “A Comparison of Public Participation Staffing Strategies in U.S. Transit Agencies: In – House Staffing, Outsourcing, and Sole Sourcing.” Mr. Alvarez commented that the more mature Transportation Agency is the more you would want to do your public involvement in house. The larger your operational budget compared to the capital the more people you have on staff on a routine level doing public involvement. LtCol. Colmenares expressed his appreciation and felt the presentation and package were thorough.

Mr. Morse stated that there were some concerns about the In housing public involvement or to Outsourcing. There were 9 different projects with 9 different Public Information Officers and we wanted to be able to take another approach to see if we could umbrella and have one source for all the projects

Ms. Patrice Rosemond emphasized that at the time this study was commissioned OPTM was in existence. Mr. Abrams requested to look at a comprehensive approach to public involvement but also ways that the reporting structure is more logical.

Ms. Diaz reviewed the outcome of the CITT Transportation Conference and stated that 150 people attended. She thanked her staff and all who assisted in the conference.

Mr. Morse suggested preparing a resolution recognizing Virginia Diaz effort and her staff as well as MDT and others.

Mr. Morse requested a motion to approve Resolution by the Citizens’ Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) recognizing and commending Virginia Diaz, Special Assistant Director, Office of the CITT, as well as all MDT and CITT Staff that provided assistance in the logistics and organization of the November 8, 2003 Transportation Conference: The People’s Transportation Plan one year in review.

LtCol. Colmenares recommended that CITT Staff evaluate the conference with both positive and negative comments as a means to improve the next conference.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Marchner invited everyone to the Municipal Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.